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Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /055 W
---------- 032967
R 180636Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 818
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12499

1. FORMER "AL AHRAM" EDITOR MOHAMMAD HASSANEIN HEIKAL, IN COMMENTING TO LEBANESE WEEKLY "AL USBU AL ARABI" (OCTOBER 14) ON US POLICY IN ME AND CHANGES IN ARAB WORLD SINCE NASSER'S DEATH, SAID THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STRUGGLES IN ME: (A) "INTERNAL STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT" AS SEEN BY NASSER, AND (B) "AREA'S STRUGGLE IN FACING OTHER FORCES...WHICH IS ON MANY LEVELS AND IS MUCH BIGGER THAN WE IMAGINE."

2. HEIKAL NOTED THAT FOLLOWING OCT WAR ARAB LEADERS CHOSE TO GIVE US "CHANCE TO SHOW ITS INTENTIONS" VIS-A-VIS ME PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH CONTENDING THAT "THIS ATTEMPT HAS NOT ACHIEVED REQUIRED RESULTS", HE DEFENDED "RIGHT OF THOSE LEADERS WHO SAW PICTURE IN WIDER SPECTRUM (TO WORK WITH USG)."

3. HEIKAL DENIED EVER HAVING SAID US INTERESTS FAVOR CONTINUED ISRAELI "EXPANSION", BUT SAID THEY DO INCLUDE "INSURING ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THIS SECURITY." HE NOTED, IN PARTICULAR, THAT US SINCE 1967 NEVER DEMANDED RETURN OF ARAB LANDS OCCUPIED IN JUNE WAR. HEIKAL CHARACTERIZED US
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AND ISRAELI INTERESTS AS "IN AGREEMENT BUT NOT

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IDENTICAL." HE EXPLAINED THAT, WHILE BULK OF ISRAELI
AIMS COINCIDE WITH US INTERESTS, ARABS SHOULD CONCENTRATE
EFFORTS IN GAPS WHERE ISRAELI AND US INTERESTS OPERATE
AS INDEPENDENT ENTITIES.

4. HEIKAL CITED "WORLD JEWRY" AND "COLONIALIS." AS
PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF ISRAELI STRENGTH. HE STATED US,
AS FRANCE AND BRITAIN IN PAST, USES ISRAEL AS "BRIDGE-
HEAD THREATENING ALL ARAB STATES...(SUCKING) UP ALL
ARAB ENERGIES LIKE A SPONGE." HE CONCLUDED"...THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT
ISRAEL HAS SUCCEEDED IN SUPPORTING AIMS
OF AMERICAN INTERESTS."

5. HEIKAL ALSO DENIED ANY CHANGE IN US ME POLICY,
TERMING RECENT US INITIATIVES ONLY AS REACTION TO
"EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN VICTORY IN FIRST FIVE DAYS OF OCTOBER
WAR AND TO ARAB SOLIDARITY." HE CALLED IT "BIG MISTAKE"
TO EXPECT FUTURE US PEACE EFFORTS TO CONTRADICT OR BE
ISOLATED FROM WHAT HE SEES AS BASIC US INTERESTS DE-
SCRIBED ABOVE.

6. HEIKAL CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO
NEUTRALIZE AMERICA'S FORCE WILL ONLY EXPOSE ARABS TO
US MILITARY MIGHT. HE SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT ARABS
ADOPT STRATEGY OF A BULLFIGHTER "WHO CONTINUES TO
WEAKEN THE BULL BY RUNNING HERE AND THERE, CONTINUING
IN THIS FASHION UNTIL HE DRAINS BULL'S STRENGTH AND
THEN KILLS HIM. THAT IS, HE RESORTS TO A LONG WAR WITH
HIM AND NOT A DIRECT ONE." GODLEY

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